

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 436
By Crutchfield

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Chancellor Edward Myer Turner of Smith County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Chancellor Edward Myer Turner of Smith County, a former member of the Tennessee General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Edward Myer Turner was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Carthage, Edward Myer Turner was the son of William Hubert "Peck" Turner and Annie Lee Myer Turner. A graduate of Smith County High School, he attended Tennessee Polytechnic Institute in Cookeville, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in 1949, and received his legal degree from Cumberland University in 1951; and

WHEREAS, a member of the "Greatest Generation" of Americans, Edward Myer Turner nobly served his country during World War II as a member of the United States Navy. Inducted at Chattanooga on November 11, 1943, he attended AMM School, NATTC, at Norman, Oklahoma, and was stationed at USN TS, Great Lakes, Illinois; NATTC, Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois; and USNAS, Pensacola, Florida. He received an honorable discharge with the rating of Seaman First Class in Memphis in 1946 after two and one-half years of service and having been awarded the Victory Medal and the American Theatre Medal; and

WHEREAS, Edward Myer Turner capably served in the House of Representatives during the 78th General Assembly (1953 to 1955) representing Smith County, prior to seeking election to the State Senate where he served during the 83rd and 84th General Assemblies (1963 to 1967) representing at first, Smith, Clay, Jackson, Macon, Trousdale, and Wilson Counties, and later Smith, Macon, Sumner, Trousdale and Wilson Counties; and

WHEREAS, practicing law in Carthage, Mr. Turner served as the Clerk and Master of Chancery Court from 1955 to 1964. In 1969 he was appointed by then Governor Buford Ellington to serve as Chancellor for Smith, Sumner, Wilson, Trousdale and Macon Counties and later Jackson County, a position he held until 1990; and

WHEREAS, Edward Myer Turner served with acumen and integrity as Chancellor; he earned the respect of the members of the bench and bar alike for the exemplary quality of his decisions and his unwavering commitment to justice and equity under the law; and

WHEREAS, an active member of his community, Chancellor Turner had served as City Attorney for the City of Carthage, was a member of the Carthage Benevolent Lodge No. 14 F. & A.M., had served as Adjutant and Commander of the American Legion, and was a past president of the Rotary Club, in addition to serving for 41 years on the Board of Directors of Citizens Bank of Carthage; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Turner was a lifelong and devout member of the First Baptist Church of Carthage, which he served faithfully for many years in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Edward Myer Turner was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Turner enjoyed the loving companionship of his devoted wife, Catherine Jane Coward Turner, and was the proud father of Teresa Turner-Walraven, Barbara Turner Maxwell, Elizabeth Myer Turner-Cameron, the late Virginia Lee Turner and the late Catherine Turner Petrucelli; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife and daughters, Chancellor Turner is survived by his grandson, John W. Leftwich, Jr., granddaughter, Virginia Ann Maxwell, brother in law, Sam B. Coward, Jr., sister in law, Barbara Kindt Turner, and four nephews and one niece; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Edward Myer Turner leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity on the bench, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional jurist and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Chancellor Edward Myer Turner, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction as we pay tribute to his sterling career on the bench.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Chancellor Turner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.